

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A mailing machine comprising:

a base unit;

a cover secured to the base unit; and

a docking station associated with the cover, the docking station adapted to secure a user controller and couple the user controller to the mailing machine, the docking station being repositionable with respect to the cover such that a user controller secured to the docking station can be positioned in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine.

2. The mailing machine of claim 1, further comprising:

a well formed in the cover; and

a rotating portion disposed in the well, the docking station being secured to the rotating portion, the rotating portion being rotatable within the well to reposition the docking station with respect to the cover such that a user controller secured to the docking station can be positioned to face in a plurality of different directions with respect to the mailing machine.

3. The mailing machine of claim 2, wherein the well is integrally molded with the cover.

4. The mailing machine of claim 2, wherein the well includes at least one stop device to restrict rotation of the rotating portion.

5. The mailing machine of claim 4, wherein the rotating portion includes a plurality of tabs that extend from the rotating portion, the tabs contacting a top surface of the well, the rotating portion being supported in the well by the tabs, at least one tab contacting the at least one stop device in the well to restrict rotation of the rotating portion.

6. The mailing machine of claim 2, wherein the docking station further comprises:
  - a first connector to mate with corresponding connector of a user controller;and
  - a second connector coupled to the first connector, the second connector to mate with a cable from the mailing machine.
7. The mailing machine of claim 6, wherein the rotating portion further comprises:
  - at least one cam for guiding a user controller during insertion of a user controller into the docking station.
8. The mailing machine of claim 7, wherein the at least one cam includes an inclined guiding portion, the inclined portion contacting a portion of a user controller to force the user controller downward as it is being inserted into the docking station.
9. The mailing machine of claim 7, wherein the at least one cam is integrally molded with the rotating portion.
10. The mailing machine of claim 7, wherein the rotating portion further comprises:
  - a tongue portion having a lip, the tongue portion mating with a corresponding groove in a user controller, the lip mating with a corresponding channel in the groove.
11. The mailing machine of claim 6, wherein the rotating portion further comprises:
  - a locking tab passing through an opening in the rotating portion, the locking tab projecting into a corresponding opening in a user controller when a user controller is inserted into the docking station to secure the user controller.
12. The mailing machine of claim 11, wherein the rotating portion further comprises:

a release mechanism coupled to the locking tab, the release mechanism when activated causing the locking tab to descend through the opening in the rotating portion thereby releasing a user controller secured to the docking station.

13. The mailing machine of claim 2, wherein the docking station is rotatable in a first plane and pivotable in a second plane.

14. The mailing machine of claim 1, wherein the cover includes a slot that extends along a portion of the cover, and the docking station is slidably mounted within the slot such that the docking station can be moved along the slot to a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine.

15. The mailing machine of claim 14, wherein the slot includes at least one curved portion.

16. The mailing machine of claim 15, wherein the slot extends substantially from a first end of the cover located near an input end of the mailing machine to a second end of the cover located near an output end of the mailing machine, and the at least one curved portion includes a curved portion near each end of the slot.

17. The mailing machine of claim 14, further comprising:

an interface board, the docking station being secured to the interface board;  
and

a bracket securing the interface board within the slot.

18. The mailing machine of claim 17, further comprising:

a channel secured beneath the cover, the channel adapted to receive the bracket, the bracket sliding along the channel to move the docking station along the slot.

19. The mailing machine of claim 17, wherein the interface board is rotatably secured to the bracket such that the interface board can be rotated as well as moved along the slot.

20. A mailing machine comprising:

a base unit;

a cover secured to the base unit; and

a user controller secured to the cover, the user controller being rotatable with respect to the cover, the user controller including at least one input device and at least one output device, the user controller further including a postal security device for metering mail.

21. The mailing machine of claim 20, wherein the user controller is removable from the cover.

22. The mailing machine of claim 20, further comprising:

a well formed in the cover; and

a rotating portion disposed in the well, the rotating portion including a docking station,

wherein the user controller is coupled to the docking station.

23. The mailing machine of claim 20, wherein the user controller is rotatable in a first plane and pivotable in a second plane.

24. A mailing machine comprising:

a cover;

a well formed in the cover;

a rotating portion disposed in the well, the rotating portion including a docking station for mounting a user controller, the docking station including a connector to mate with a corresponding connector on the user controller, the rotating portion further including a pair of cams to guide a user controller being inserted into the docking station by pushing down on the user controller to align the connector on the docking station with the corresponding connector on the user controller,

wherein a user controller inserted into the docking station can be positioned to face in a plurality of different directions with respect to the mailing machine.

25. The mailing machine of claim 24, wherein the well includes at least one stop device, and the rotating portion includes a plurality of tabs that extend from the rotating portion, the tabs contacting a top surface of the well, the rotating portion being supported in the well by the tabs, at least one tab contacting the at least one stop device in the well to restrict rotation of the rotating portion.

26. The mailing machine of claim 24, wherein the rotating portion further comprises:

a locking tab passing through an opening in the rotating portion, the locking tab projecting into a corresponding opening in the user controller when the user controller is inserted into the docking station to secure the user controller.

27. A mailing machine comprising:

a cover;

a slot in the cover extending along a portion of the cover; and

an interface board adapted to slide within in the slot, the interface board including a docking station for mounting a user controller,

wherein a user controller inserted into the docking station can be moved by sliding the interface board within the slot to position the user controller in a plurality of different positions with respect to the mailing machine.

28. The mailing machine of claim 27, wherein the docking station includes a connector to mate with a corresponding connector on the user controller, and the interface board includes a pair of cams to guide a user controller being inserted into the docking station by pushing down on the user controller to align the connector on the docking station with the corresponding connector on the user controller.

29. The mailing machine of claim 27, wherein the slot includes a curved portion.

30. The mailing machine of claim 29, wherein when a user controller is positioned within the curved portion of the slot, a face of the user controller will be rotated with respect to the mailing machine.

31. The mailing machine of claim 27, wherein the interface board can be rotated as well as slid within the slot.